Annual Report

Department of Education

2005-06

Newfoundland
Labrador

Newfoundland
Labrador

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Education
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Message from the Minister

March 15, 2007

Honourable Harvey Hodder, M.H.A.
Speaker of the House of Assembly
East Block
Confederation Building

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby submit the 2005-06 Annual Report for the Department of Education in accordance with the department's requirements as a category one government entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*.

The mandate of the Minister of Education includes all matters relating to education in the K-12 system; literacy development; monitoring and ensuring progress of post-secondary education; and, training, certifying and setting qualifications for apprentices and journeypersons.

This past fiscal year the staff of the department collaborated with the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board, Memorial University of Newfoundland, College of the North Atlantic, school board trustees and district personnel, teachers and parents to ensure the best interests of those served were met.

The following report covers the period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. The outcomes reported reflect government's strategic direction for the province's education system and my signature below is indicative of my accountability for the actual results.

Respectfully submitted,

JOAN BURKE, M.H.A.
St. George's-Stephenville East
Minister

Overview

The Department of Education was established under the *Executive Council Act* and is a category one government entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*. The department is responsible for achieving outcomes with respect to the education of all citizens from pre-school to post-secondary and beyond. The programs and services offered are provided through three main branches.

Primary, Elementary & Secondary Branch
This branch includes responsibility for school services; rural education; program development; student support services; evaluation and research; distance learning and innovation; and, early childhood learning.

Advanced Studies Branch
This branch includes responsibility for post-secondary education including institutional and industrial education; skills development; student financial assistance; and, adult learning and literacy.

Corporate Services Branch
This branch includes responsibility for financial services; school construction; corporate planning and international education; human resources including teachers' payroll services; and, the Community Access Program.

Vision

Citizens with the values, knowledge and skills necessary to be productive and contributing members of society.

Mission

The Department of Education will maintain an educational system for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador which is of high quality, safe, and affordable.

Lines of Business

The Department of Education has eight main program and service areas.

Curriculum and Programs
In the K-12 system, responsibilities include developing and monitoring the curriculum, creating or selecting learning resources, developing and implementing distance learning activities, developing programs for improved teaching and learning, and providing teacher professional development in new curriculum areas. In addition, support services to children with special needs are provided by administering student support programs and the allocation of a full range of personnel to school districts. The department also

develops and provides support for school development, Aboriginal programming, and fosters improved pre-school learning opportunities.

In the public post-secondary system responsibilities include developing and monitoring curricula for entry-level and advanced-level apprenticeship training; Adult Basic Education Program Levels I, II and III; and, supporting Memorial University of Newfoundland and College of the North Atlantic. The department administers student financial assistance programs, monitors the operations of private training institutions, and approves their offered curricula.

Educational Policy and Direction
In the K-12 system and the public post-secondary sector, the department sets the strategy and vision. Decision-making is informed through the development of briefing and other support materials, and the provision of statistical indicators and background information.

Student Assessment and Certification
Responsibilities include the evaluation, monitoring, test development and certification processes for the K-12 system, and the administration of journeyperson certification examinations for designated trades, including the interprovincial standards examinations for Red Seal trades.

Research, Records and Reporting/Accountability
Responsibilities include all major functions related to education system performance such as education statistics, planning, evaluation, accountability, policy development, and research. The department collects data and manages databases for core areas such as enrolment and graduate outcomes.

Support to Federal, Provincial and Territorial Agreements & Initiatives
The department coordinates the activities of a number of federal-provincial agreements for which it is a key stakeholder such as Official Languages in Education, the Community Access Program, the Connecting Learners and Communities Broadband Initiative, the Apprenticeship Training Federal Contribution Agreement and agreements pertaining to Aboriginal schools. The department also provides support to several federal-provincial-territorial committees.

Finance and Administration
Responsibilities include legislation and regulation; human resource development; school construction; funding public libraries; teacher certification; teacher payroll; and financing the K-12 and public post-secondary systems.

Student Financial Assistance
The department is responsible for major functions related to student aid for post-secondary education including the assessment of eligibility for student loans and grants.

International Education
The department actively supports and promotes both secondary and post-secondary initiatives to attract international students and develop international partnerships.

Number of Employees

On March 31, 2006, the Department of Education employed 257 individuals.

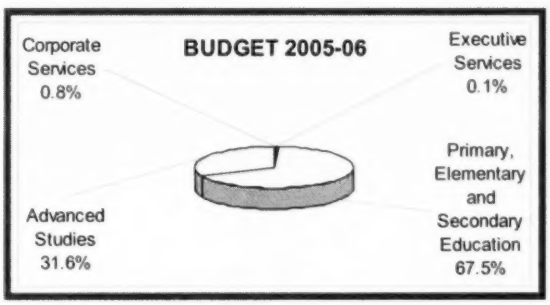
Branch	Female	Male	Total
Primary, Elementary & Secondary	88	49	137
Advanced Studies	70	32	102
Corporate Services	14	4	18
Total	172	85	257

Physical Location

The main offices of the Department of Education are located in the West Block of Confederation Building in St. John's. Regional offices delivering provincial apprenticeship programs and services to private colleges are located in Corner Brook, Grand Falls–Windsor and Happy Valley–Goose Bay. The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation has offices in St. John's at Memorial University and Gander.

Budget

The department's budget for fiscal year 2005-06 was $904 million.



The Department of Education website is: http://www.gov.nl.ca/edu

Shared Commitments

To ensure that the delivery of education in Newfoundland and Labrador is efficient, effective and of high quality, the Department of Education must work in concert with numerous partner organizations.

SCHOOL BOARDS

The five school boards are directly responsible for the administration and operation of the province's schools and school districts including,

- staffing;
- distributing resources, including human resources;
- evaluating, acquiring, distributing and maintaining technological resources;
- acquiring, maintaining and repairing buildings;
- transporting students and,
- developing instructional policies and practices.

The school boards shall ensure the effective operation of primary, elementary and secondary schools in their district.

K-12 Statistics for 2005-06
5 School Boards
294 Public Schools

	Female	Male	Total
Students	37,347	39,416	76,763
Teachers	3,635	1,850	5,485

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The *Schools Act, 1997* requires each school principal to establish a school council that will represent the school's educational interests; advise on the quality of teaching and learning in the school; facilitate parent and community involvement; and advise the school board on matters of concern. The councils also recommend, and then support and promote a plan for improving teaching and learning as approved by the school board; approve and monitor fund-raising activities; consider and monitor performance standards; and make recommendations to school principals with respect to religious observance.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Public post-secondary education is delivered in the province through two main institutions. Memorial University of Newfoundland operated four campuses, including one in Harlow, England and serviced 19,000 post-secondary students in the fall of 2005. College of the North Atlantic operated 17 campuses in the province and serviced 6,222

post-secondary students in the fall of 2005. In addition to the public post-secondary system, the department works with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Career Colleges regarding issues impacting the private career colleges. The department also works with apprentices, employers, colleges and the federal government to help apprentices receive the necessary work experience and technical training to become certified journeypersons.

Post-Secondary Students	
Institution	**Fall 2005**
Memorial University of Newfoundland	17,803
Marine Institute of Memorial University	1,197
College of the North Atlantic	6,222
Private Colleges	2,633

LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

The department partners with other provincial and federal government departments regarding the development of labour market policies and programs. Partnering provincial departments include the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment and the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. Partnering federal departments include Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Industry Canada, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The department also shares commitments with the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board; the Student Loan Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador; the Council on Higher Education; the Ministerial Council on Early Childhood Learning; the federal Department of Canadian Heritage; Infrastructure Canada; and, non-profit centres that deliver Adult Basic Education Level I. The department is often involved in discussions with associations such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association; the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees; the Canadian Union of Public Employees; the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association; Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador; the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils; the Canadian Federation of Students; and, provincial student unions. These discussions provide valuable information and help shape the department's policy development and decision-making processes.

Outcomes of Objectives

During fiscal year 2005-06, the Department of Education worked with the Transparency and Accountability Office of Executive Council in preparation for compliance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act.* As part of this process, the department assessed all 2005-06 initiatives in light of the strategic issues to be addressed in the department's next Strategic Plan and reports the following Outcomes of Objectives based upon four major themes, High Quality Education System, Relevant Apprenticeship Programming, Safe Educational System, and Affordable Education.

HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM

In order to ensure the success of our citizens, the Department of Education has a responsibility to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador has a high quality educational system which is available to all.

School Achievement Indicators Program

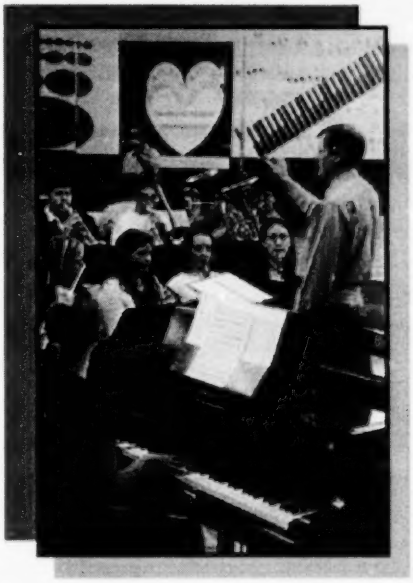
The 2004 School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) science assessment results, which were released in June 2005, showed our province's 16-year-olds are performing at the Canadian average in science. These science results were the only SAIP results released during the fiscal year.

High School Results

In general, Newfoundland and Labrador's high school students performed marginally better in 2005 than in 2004 public exam courses. Results released in July 2005 showed that the overall pass rate was 91 per cent for all high school courses, and 90 per cent for public examination courses. This compares with 90 per cent and 89 per cent in 2004, respectively. Since public exams were reintroduced in 2001, there has been a general trend of improved learning in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Course	Percentage of Passes			Average Mark		
	2002-03	2003-04	**2004-05**	2002-03	2003-04	**2004-05**
English 3201	78%	92%	**94%**	57%	65%	**65%**
French 3200	96%	98%	**96%**	70%	73%	**72%**
Academic Math 3204	71%	75%	**81%**	58%	60%	**62%**
Advanced Math 3205	91%	95%	**98%**	70%	74%	**76%**
Biology 3201	89%	83%	**85%**	65%	62%	**63%**
Chemistry 3202	90%	90%	**89%**	68%	68%	**66%**
Physics 3204	88%	87%	**90%**	64%	66%	**68%**
Earth Systems 3209	71%	81%	**89%**	58%	61%	**64%**
World History 3201	86%	87%	**89%**	65%	66%	**67%**
Histoire mondiale 3231	90%	91%	**93%**	67%	68%	**69%**
World Geography 3202	93%	94%	**94%**	68%	69%	**68%**

Cultural Connections



Government is committed to exposing students to strong cultural experiences in our education system. Cultural Connections is a comprehensive, sustainable fine arts and culture strategy in our schools which will provide students with a critical awareness of the role of the arts in our heritage. Cultural Connections is one of the fundamental building blocks of the Strategic Cultural Plan prepared by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

As part of Cultural Connections, funding was provided for an additional 23 teaching units to support specialized music programs; new curriculum materials; more local resources in our schools (including resources for and about Aboriginal students); and, opportunities for students to avail of our culture through new technologies. Enrichment opportunities include an Arts in Schools Program, the purchase of music equipment, support for arts festivals, and the promotion of student art and performance.

Work also progressed on a $75,000 initiative to bring the works of Newfoundland and Labrador writers, including books, sheet music and compact discs, into school libraries. A critical component of the strategy is connecting teachers with artists, musicians and performers, and offering the teachers real experiences that they can bring back to their students.

Student Support Services

The Division of Student Support Services continued to provide leadership and support to teaching and support personnel throughout 2005-06. Four itinerant positions were provided to districts to promote inclusive educational practices in schools. Their mandate, to provide information to schools and districts, heighten awareness within school communities, and respond to specific issues, was realized through professional development, consultation regarding preventive approaches and problem solving with schools and districts.

An advisory committee on Student Support Services continues to perform the important function of ensuring that the perspectives of parents, advocacy groups and other professional partners are reflected in policy development and service design.

Career Education
Career education, K-12 and post-secondary, is universally recognized as critical to students' future success in life. The department recognizes that all students should have a career plan by the end of senior high school. The new graduation requirements for students graduating in June of 2008 include a mandatory course in career development as part of the high school program. The new two-credit course, Career Development 2201, was piloted in 44 of the province's schools. This course has a community contribution component requiring each student to engage in 30 hours of volunteer activity. The course will be implemented in all schools for September 2006.

Early Childhood Learning Grants
A new application package for the Early Childhood Learning Grants Program was made available in October 2005 to community groups and not-for-profit organizations. Through this program, which is funded under the Early Childhood Development Initiative, approximately $250,000 is provided annually to fund early learning programs that foster literacy and numeracy development. Funds are available to cover the cost of supplies and overhead in the delivery of early learning programming for our province's pre-school children. The application deadline was moved ahead to December from January to allow projects to begin at the start of a year.

Handbook for Grade 9 Students and Parents
It is critical that our young people and their parents understand the importance of careful planning, as students entering Level I will be making choices that affect their post-secondary options. In 2005, a new Department of Education resource entitled *On Course: A Handbook for Grade 9 Students and Parents* was prepared to help students entering high school plan a three-year program which will enable them to meet graduation requirements, and be prepared to pursue their post-secondary interests. *On Course* provides essential information on the high school curriculum, the credit system, new graduation requirements and the academic expectations that various post-secondary institutions require. It also contains valuable information on scholarships and entrance requirements for Memorial University and the public and private college systems. The handbook concludes with helpful hints on good study habits, how to prepare for a test and completing homework assignments.

Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation

The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) is successfully linking e-teachers to many small rural and remote schools enabling them to supplement their course offerings. During the past several years, CDLI has been converting high school courses to a combined direct teacher delivery and on-line format.

CDLI Statistics				
	2002-03	**2003-04**	**2004-05**	**2005-06**
Number of Courses	18	25	30	33
Number of Teachers	18.5	23.5	25.5	27.5
Course Registrations	1000	1200	1300	1650
Percentage Passes	88	90	90	88

In 2005-06, CDLI expanded its course offerings from 97 to 103 rural and remote high schools located throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

CDLI has continued to develop multimedia learning objects (MLOs) that act as tutorials for students enrolled in a variety of courses. In 2005-06, CDLI began development on 371 MLOs that provide comprehensive coverage of the senior high academic mathematics course outcomes. In addition, 78 MLOs were created that provided answers and highlighted common student errors for the June 2005 public examinations in Biology 3201, Chemistry 3202, Mathematics 3204, Mathematics 3205, and Physics 3204. The 78 MLOs were made available so students could take advantage of extra review and instruction in preparation for June 2006 public examinations. To date, CDLI has posted in excess of 1250 MLOs, accounting for over 150 hours of review that students are able to access from any location with an Internet connection.

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction 2005-06 to 2008-09

The *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction 2005-06 to 2008-09* was signed on March 31, 2006. This agreement will see the federal government provide the province with $15.6 million over a four-year period to enhance programs in the area of French first language education and French second language instruction. Programs aimed at students in the K-12 school system and those studying French at the post-secondary level, and programs designed specifically for teachers are among the new initiatives undertaken by the department in this area. It is anticipated that through such initiatives we will see an increased rate of participation in French language education in the province, and an increase in the level of bilingualism in the population of Newfoundland and Labrador.

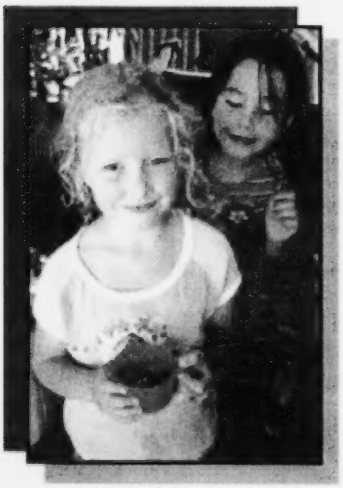
French Second Language Financial Assistance

The department recognized April 26, 2005 as Journée provinciale de l'éducation en français (Provincial French Education Day). With financial contributions from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, the department offers a range of opportunities for students and teachers to visit predominantly French speaking places, such as Saint-Pierre, and/or study French in Canada. Students and teachers may avail of one- to two-week short courses, take four- or five-week summer programs, or complete one or two university semesters. In 2005-06, the department provided financial assistance to approximately 1,270 students in the amount of $726,821.

Program	Students	Amount
Anglophone post-secondary bursaries	26	$79,900
Francophone post-secondary bursaries	11	$35,700
Summer bursaries Grade 11	41	$78,155
Summer bursaries Grades 9 & 10	60	$121,188
Teacher bursary program	22	$32,200
Memorial University Programme Frecker	55	$110,000
Saint-Pierre summer camp Grades 6 & 7	55	$28,585
Cultural visits by 63 schools	1000 approx.	$241,093

New Curriculum

In 2005-06, $4 million was allocated for learning resources to support new curriculum, including Kindergarten to Grade 6 music, primary French immersion, primary science, Grade 6 math, Grade 6 core French, and a Grade 8 Newfoundland and Labrador history course. This funding was also used to provide updated textbooks for senior high history, science, and Canadian law, and keep the overall provincial curriculum current.



Indicators 2005

Indicators 2005 - A Report on Schools was released to provide school-level data on each K-12 school in Newfoundland and Labrador. The first *Indicators* document, released in 2004, was very well-received by educators, administrators, researchers and parents. The document provides a broad range of statistical data on individual schools, including information on student achievement, graduation rates, attendance rates,

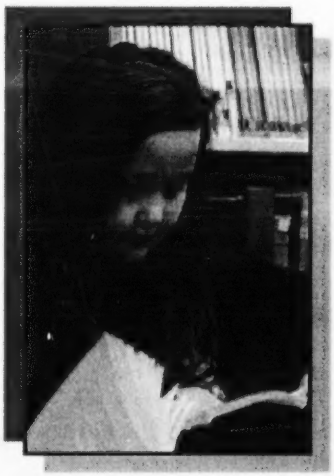
participation in extra-curricular activities and average class size. *Indicators 2005* was produced in co-operation with the province's school districts in an ongoing effort to make the educational system accountable to the people it serves.

ABE Programming
In 2005, the province began developing an adult learning campaign, a new Adult Basic Education (ABE) program curriculum model, and piloted a new General Educational Development (GED) preparation program in January 2006.

A total of 13 adult learning organizations throughout the province received funding from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to deliver ABE Level 1 courses, as well as one-on-one tutoring. Adult Basic Education is a critical first step for many who want to get involved in our growing economy.

ABE Level I Pilot Program
Adult Basic Education and literacy initiatives contribute to the social and economic development of our province. In 2005 the provincial government provided $230,000 to continue funding previously provided by the federal government for its share of the Adult Basic Education Level I pilot program. The inter-generational benefits of literacy are well established. Higher literacy levels of parents have a positive impact on the achievement of their children. A recent analysis from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that a one per cent increase in adult literacy produces a permanent 1.5 per cent increase in gross domestic product.

PRIME Pilot
PRIME (Professional Resources and Instruction for Mathematics Educators) is a research-based Canadian professional learning initiative for teachers and administrators. Its purpose is to improve instruction and learning in primary and elementary school mathematics. In 2005-06, approximately 25 schools in Newfoundland and Labrador participated in a pilot project with PRIME. The focus is Number and Operations for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6.



Council of the Federation Literacy Award
Literacy skills are critical to our province's social and economic development. A new literacy award was created to recognize outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award was created in partnership with the premiers of all provinces and territories, and recognizes individuals and organizations from each province and territory that have made an exceptional contribution to literacy in their region. In 2005, Jamie Garland, a resident of St. George's, was recognized by Canada's premiers for her achievements in improving her literacy skills. Jamie was the Newfoundland and Labrador recipient of the inaugural award, a reflection of her dedication to overcoming challenges and embracing educational opportunities at the Bay St. George Learning Centre in Stephenville.

Broadband Access
In cooperation with the Government of Canada (Infrastructure Canada) and private-sector partner Persona, an agreement was signed in September 2005 to bring broadband access to 68 schools and 103 communities in rural and remote areas of the province. Rural students will benefit because video conferencing technology and enriched multimedia resources can help provide more flexible distance education opportunities.

Community Access Program
The Community Access Program (CAP) celebrated its 10th anniversary in October 2005. During 2005-06, 165 CAP sites received funding to provide public Internet access to residents of the province and over 540,000 computer sessions were logged. Furthermore, there were over 2900 training sessions offered with 8345 participants. The CAP Youth Initiative employed over 90 youth interns at CAP sites, providing them with valuable work experience in rural and remote areas of the province.

E-Waste
The department is helping schools take out their electronic waste, or e-waste, such as old computers, monitors and other related equipment that have reached the end of their useful life cycle. Each year thousands of pounds of electronic waste ends up in landfills throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. In April 2005, government announced that it had contributed $60,000 to Computers for Schools (CFS) for a pilot project that would see obsolete technology in schools and libraries removed and professionally processed. Since 1993, CFS has delivered approximately 12,000 computers to schools and libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador as volunteers collect, repair and deliver surplus computers which have been discarded by government, private corporations and individuals.

Sir Wilfred Grenfell College (Feasibility Study)
A feasibility study to examine various degrees of autonomy for Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook was commissioned in December 2005 by the department. The study will involve a benefit analysis, including infrastructure and student services, potential impacts on such aspects as programming and recruitment, and any educational,

social and economic impacts on the region and province. The consultants will review all options for Grenfell College, including the possibility of an autonomous, independent university for Corner Brook.

Facility Requirements

One area of our province that is experiencing growth is our Aboriginal communities. To ensure Aboriginal participation in post-secondary training, the department will persist in securing access to federal programs for members of these communities. In 2005, $250,000 was budgeted to assess facility requirements at College of the North Atlantic in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to accommodate growth in Aboriginal enrolment.

Philpott Report

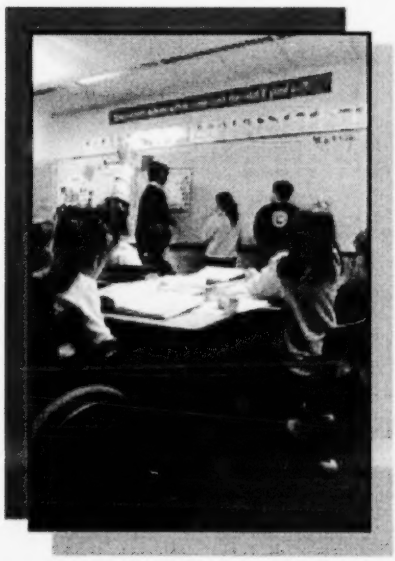
Budget 2005 committed $500,000, on an ongoing basis, to begin the process of addressing issues identified in the federally-commissioned report on Innu education, commonly known as the Philpott Report. This funding was used for education and training programming, including culturally relevant curriculum, and support for Aboriginal youth to access alternative learning programs. Two program specialists, one Aboriginal education program development specialist responsible for enriching culturally relevant curriculum and one Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders consultant, have been hired. In addition to the various professional development activities, the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders consultant held information and training sessions in Nataushish and Sheshatshui, with personnel from the Labrador School District, Nunastsiavut Department of Health, the Innu Band Council and other agencies, along with family and community members.

Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

In early October 2005, the province's Minister of Education assumed the role of chair of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) for a two-year period. CMEC provides education ministers and their executive an opportunity to exchange information, to discuss best practices, and to address common challenges. The chair is a key voice for educational issues of national concern. During the 89th meeting of the CMEC in March 2006, ministers discussed issues such as continued participation in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme for International Student

Assessment (PISA); establishing copyright legislation that includes an amendment for the educational use of the Internet; and continued funding of the Library Mail Rate Program through Canada Post to allow public libraries and educational institutions involved in distance learning to continue to distribute books at a reasonable cost.

National Stakeholder Summit on Post-Secondary Education and Skills
A delegation of 19 provincial representatives of the post-secondary education sector in Newfoundland and Labrador brought forward issues of importance in this province to the National Stakeholder Summit on Post-Secondary Education and Skills which was held in Ottawa on February 24, 2006. The summit was part of an initiative of the Council of the Federation to develop a pan-Canadian strategy for post-secondary education and skills.



Teaching Units
Teachers are a critical component of the province's education system. In fiscal year 2005-06, 65 per cent of the entire K-12 education budget was spent on teaching services. Government redeployed 75 teaching units back into the education system at an annualized cost of $4.5 million in recognition of the pressures that the teacher allocation formula would have had on class size and the provision of programs. Therefore, 52 teaching units were reinvested to address primary class size issues, and 23 teaching units were added to support music education as part of the department's comprehensive fine arts strategy.

Memorandum of Agreement (Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association)
The government recognizes the invaluable contributions teachers make each and every day inside and outside of the classroom. During Education Week 2006, a new four-year Memorandum of Agreement was reached with the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. As part of the agreement, government committed to providing $1.953 billion to stabilize the teachers' pension plan, and a three per cent raise in each of the last two years of the agreement.

School Board Elections

In September 2005, a new campaign targeted school board elections. Despite the importance of community input, public participation in the province's school board elections has been declining, both in terms of the low number of candidates running for office and voter turnout. The Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association launched a province-wide public education campaign to encourage candidates to run and to promote voter participation for the school board elections held on September 27, 2005. As part of this campaign, the association also launched a leadership recruitment program. More candidates sought election in 2005 with the proportion of contested positions nearly doubled from 2001, and the proportion of acclaimed positions nearly halved. However, low overall turnout has been a trend, and working with the NLSBA, the department immediately began reviewing the election process with a goal to find ways of improving voter turnout and encouraging willing individuals to seek election.

International Education

The department continued to support and promote both secondary and post-secondary endeavours to attract international students, develop international partnerships, and deliver curriculum internationally in 2005-06. Enrolment continued to increase in the province's public post-secondary institutions as well as in the secondary school system.

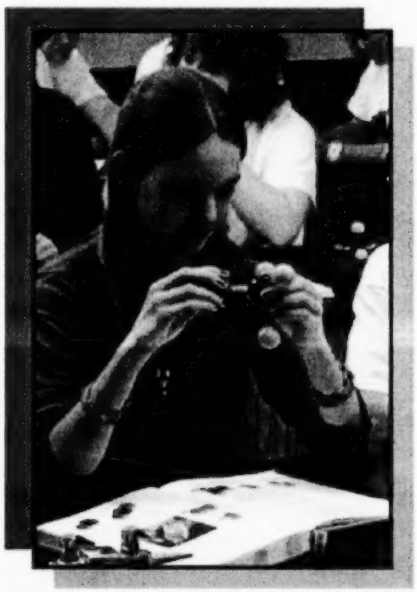
International Student Enrolment in Newfoundland and Labrador					
Institution	**2001-02**	**2002-03**	**2003-04**	**2004-05**	**2005-06**
College of the North Atlantic	64	59	51	47	56
Memorial University	420	553	693	730	947
Private Training	N/A	7	0	10	0
Secondary School System	N/A	0	19	47	96
Total	484	619	763	834	1099

The Qatar Campus of College of the North Atlantic is a partnership between the Government of Qatar and College of the North Atlantic, offering the college's curriculum. As the campus development nears completion, student enrolment continues to increase. The campus employs in excess of 130 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

As well, Chinese high school students had the opportunity to study Newfoundland and Labrador curriculum in China. They also have access to College of the North Atlantic curriculum. Some Chinese students complete part of their college studies in China and part in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Students Studying Newfoundland and Labrador Curriculum Internationally					
Institution		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
China	College of the North Atlantic	531	559	556	419
	Private Training	0	6	0	0
	South Ocean (Secondary)	0	26	66	30
Qatar	College of the North Atlantic	278	622	815	1196
	Total	809	1213	1437	1645

Youth Science Month



March 2006 was proclaimed Youth Science Month in Newfoundland and Labrador by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. Science and technology are integral parts of our society, and therefore integral parts of our education system. The science and technology programs in our schools, and local and regional science fairs, encourage students to learn through hands-on experiences that build valuable scientific skills. These are skills that will last a lifetime, and we strive to ensure students have modern learning resources, and interesting and relevant curriculum. This proclamation followed the success in June 2005 of high school students from the Eastern School District and Marine Institute, who won first place awards in underwater robot and engineering competitions, as well as for teamwork and professionalism. The event was coordinated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas.

RELEVANT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMMING

The Department of Education must have programming which is responsive to the interests and abilities of a broader range of students if the number of skilled tradespersons entering the workforce in Newfoundland and Labrador is to increase.

Career Awards Program
Government allocated $226,000 to support work-term placements for post-secondary students in offshore research and development. The Career Awards Program has made a significant impact in building strategic knowledge and skills throughout the post-secondary education sector. Students have gained petroleum-related work experience from all over the world. Partnerships between education, industry, business, and provincial and federal governments have been recognized as essential to the development of a highly qualified workforce within the research and development and the petroleum industries.

Apprenticeship and Certification Web Site
In May 2005, the department launched an apprenticeship and certification website (www.gov.nl.ca/app) designed as a one-stop information centre for students, apprentices, training institutions and employers. The site was developed through the Apprenticeship Enhancement Project and funded under the Labour Market Development Agreement. It is a vital component of the post-secondary education system in Newfoundland and Labrador. Successful apprenticeship training relies on the strong commitment of apprentices, business, post-secondary institutions and government. A key component of the new website is the apprenticeship employment gateway which allows registered apprentices to search for employment opportunities posted by Newfoundland and Labrador employers involved in the apprenticeship system, and allows employers to post employment opportunities in their search for registered apprentices.

Resource Tools for Educators
The department has been working with the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum and Skills Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador, a not-for-profit organization that works with employers, teachers, guidance counselors and labour groups to raise the profile of trade and technical careers as a real option for young people. A skilled trades' user guide and information package, called *Resource Tools for Educators*, was expected to be completed in spring 2006. This will help increase the number of young people who take part in apprenticeship programs and is a step to addressing our skill shortages.

SAFE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The Department of Education must ensure each student has an appropriate learning environment, in an appropriate location, which is safe and free from harassment.

School Busing
It is vital that government continue to seek improvements in all aspects of the school transportation system to ensure that our children are safe and secure. Budget 2005 invested $3 million to begin reducing the age of school buses beginning in September 2005 and to enhance safety programs. This includes $1.5 million in new funding to work with bus contractors to reduce the age of school buses for new busing contracts, which now must be in line with government's direction that the maximum age of buses not exceed 12 years. Reducing the age of school buses will ensure that the students of our province travel on buses which meet or better the maximum age used in other provinces. Government is acting to make the school transportation service safer and is addressing the concerns raised by the Auditor General with respect to school busing. Government spent $500,000 to finance the purchase of 53 new buses for board-owned busing systems, at a value of approximately $4.5 million. Additionally, $175,000 was allocated for driver training and other safety programs. The goal is to have all school bus drivers trained in such areas as defensive driving, first aid and student management.

Safe and Caring Schools

The department as a partner in the Violence Prevention Initiative is committed to proactively addressing issues of violence in schools and developing safe and caring learning environments. Six behaviour support specialists have continued to support teachers and administrators in reducing disruptive behaviour in classrooms through a combined focus on training in functional behavioural assessment, and the development of effective behaviour plans and school wide positive behaviour supports. On March 16-17, 2006, a two-day provincial training event was held for administrators and others committed to the development of school wide positive behaviour supports.

Physical Education Equipment

Senior high school graduation requirements that came into effect in the 2005-06 school year included mandatory physical education. New courses were introduced offering students choice in meeting this new graduation requirement. To support the new curriculum the department provided $1.4 million in 2005-06 to enhance physical education programming with new physical education equipment in schools. Schools had the option of making equipment purchases as varied as basketballs, volleyballs, cross-country skis, snowshoes, GPSs, compasses, rowers, or spinner bikes, for example. This is part of government's commitment to the provincial Wellness Strategy, and is designed to address issues of inactivity and obesity among our youth so that they have a foundation from which to build healthy and active lives. While this supports the new mandated high school physical education curriculum, other students will also benefit as many schools have grade levels in addition to Levels I, II and III.

Healthy Schools Student Summit

The department, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Community Services, hosted the first Healthy Schools Student Summit from September 22 to 24, 2005 in St. John's. Approximately 120 students from Grades 7-12 from across the province joined school personnel and related organizations in learning and sharing information on healthy living issues and initiatives within the school community, including healthy eating, active living and being smoke-free. Government staff listened to ideas about how to best make our schools places where students can lead active, healthy lives. As ambassadors for their schools, the students will help move the healthy schools initiative forward within their school, peer groups and community.

Sport and Physical Education Day
People of all ages can benefit from leading healthy lifestyles. Newfoundland and Labrador joined British Columbia, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island in proclaiming October 7, 2005 as Sport and Physical Education Day. Physical education is a foundation for all children and youth which can lead to lifelong physical activity.

Smoking Prevention
In October 2005, the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco (ACT) partnered with the department in launching a new mass media campaign aimed at preventing young people from starting to smoke. Eighty-five per cent of smokers start smoking before the age of 16.

School Infrastructure
Students, teachers and staff must have safe and healthy educational environments. Many schools are older structures which are in need of significant repair and maintenance. As part of Budget 2005, government made a major commitment to school infrastructure. The department spent $17.8 million for new construction, major maintenance and repair projects for schools. Over the last two fiscal years, the department has spent in excess of $32 million on school infrastructure. This funding was used to repair and replace roofs, windows and siding to prevent water from penetrating the interiors of school buildings, and repair areas where water damage had occurred. The total square footage of new or improved roofing in 2005 alone was almost six hectares, amounting to an area covering 38 NHL hockey rinks. While much has been accomplished with respect to accessibility issues, air quality issues, environmental issues, and electrical inspections, work continues to address outstanding concerns.

Further funding of $250,000 was committed for the development of a province-wide long-term facilities plan for school infrastructure in order to take stock of infrastructure requirements. The facilities plan will consider student demographics to ensure that appropriate funding is invested in the future.

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

The Department of Education believes that in the K-12 system a child's education should not place a financial burden on her or his family, and in the public post-secondary system tuition levels should be kept at a reasonable level and appropriate access to student financial assistance must be available. In this respect, the department is committed to ensuring education in this

province remains affordable at all levels.

White Paper

Foundation for Success, White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education, released on July 7, 2005, was commissioned as part of government's continued commitment to provide affordable and accessible post-secondary education opportunities. This is a major policy paper on public post-secondary education in Newfoundland and Labrador. The white paper provided government's strategic direction for the public post-secondary system for the next three fiscal years. It focused on ensuring individuals are able to participate in our educational system and labour force; enhancing post-secondary programming; ensuring students have access to the services they require to succeed; maintaining stable public post-secondary funding; and, enhancing cooperation between the province's two public post-secondary institutions.

Extensive consultations and research were conducted and provided the basis for direction of reforms that build a strong and responsive public post-secondary system. Government allocated $89.75 million in new money over the next three years in the public post-secondary system for white paper initiatives. *Foundation for Success* focuses on students and stresses their importance. It is also about partnerships between institutions, and between institutions and the communities they serve. Government recognizes the importance of linking regional economic development with labour market needs. Hence, additional resources were invested in Memorial University, including Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and College of the North Atlantic to help grow rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Tuition Freeze

One key directive in *Foundation for Success* was a three-year tuition freeze at Memorial University of Newfoundland and College of the North Atlantic. Government reaffirmed its commitment to provide funding to enable those institutions to freeze tuition rates for post-secondary students for 2005-06. Public post-secondary fees in this province are almost half the national average as a result. This funding helps ensure that our public post-secondary system is affordable and accessible, and that students have access to high quality programming at an affordable cost to help them become tomorrow's leaders.

Student Financial Services Changes

Interest and motivation, rather than financial resources, should determine post-secondary opportunities for those with the desire and capacity to pursue higher education. A series of changes to the province's student loan program improved financial assistance to post-secondary students. Effective August 1, 2005: the provincial student loan limits increased from $110 to $140 per week; the Debt Reduction Grants Program was enhanced and applied against the new weekly provincial loan limits; the amount of assistance a parent is required to contribute to their child's education was lowered; and, the income thresholds for interest relief were raised by five per cent.

Provincial student loans were issued to 10,092 students totaling $31.9 million in fiscal year 2005-06, as outlined in the following table. Readers should note that federal student loans are available in addition to provincial student loans.

Student Loans Portfolio 2005-06		
Item	**Number**	**Amount**
Applications Received	11,348	N/A
Applications Approved (NL Loans Only)	10,092	$31,940,881
Loan Remission	301	$1,656,043
Debt Reduction	1,024	$5,575,784
Canada Study Grants for Students with Disabilities	48	$201,149
Canada Study Grants for Students with Dependents	476	$601,770

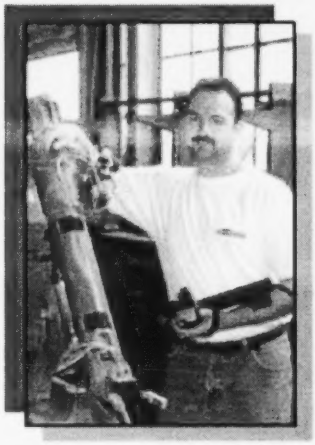
Research and Development

Government invested $5 million as part of Budget 2005 and the white paper for research and development initiatives at Memorial University of Newfoundland and College of the North Atlantic. This funding was used to allow our institutions to access partner funding from the federal government and the private sector as research and development leads directly to economic opportunities. This investment generates up to an additional $5 in partner funding for every $1 from the province.

Scholarships

Scholarships were awarded to exemplary students across the province to help defray the cost of their post-secondary education. In the fall of 2005, the department granted 201 scholarships, valued at least $1,000 each, on the basis of student performance on public examinations. Of note, the Junior Jubilee Scholarship, which is valued at $2,500 and awarded to the student who attains the highest overall score on the public examinations, was awarded to Rachel Gardiner who graduated from St. Kevin's High School in the Goulds. Other scholarships include the Constable W.C. Moss Scholarship, Electoral District Scholarships, and 48 High School Centenary of Responsible Government Scholarships.

In addition, the department also funds scholarships in recognition of post-secondary excellence. These include the Senior Jubilee Scholarship; Dr. Arthur Barnes Scholarship; Dr. William W. Blackall Scholarship; Dr. Vincent P. Burke Scholarship; Rev. Dr. Levi Curtis Scholarship; Ronald K. Kennedy Scholarship; and 48 Post-Secondary Education Centenary of Responsible Government Scholarships. Furthermore, scholarships are available for Adult Basic Education students such as the David E. Lawrence Memorial and Florence O'Neill Scholarship.



Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

New Senior High Program of Study: *Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology*
In March 2006, government announced $1.5 million for new senior high courses in skilled trades and technology. A suite of eight new courses and revision to two existing courses will provide senior high students with knowledge and skill development in areas such as technology, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and small engine repair. Students who enroll in these new courses will use high quality design and fabrication equipment. These new courses will also examine career opportunities for females and males in technology and skilled trades. Pilot work on the first two skilled trades courses will commence in September 2006 at 30 schools throughout the province.

Women are under-represented in the skilled trades and the department will actively promote this new program to female students through a media campaign which will include brochures, posters and a website. The underlying philosophy of the campaign supports gender equity and will encourage female students to consider these trades as viable career options.

Skills Task Force
Employers from across many industries, including those in the traditional resource-based industries, are facing increasing demands for skilled workers to keep pace with new technologies and to remain competitive. Yet they are having difficulty finding and keeping the skilled workers they need. In March 2006, the department partnered with business, labour, education and other key industry stakeholders to address the demand for skilled labour by establishing a Skills Task Force. Drawing upon funding in the 2006-07 fiscal year, the task force will work to aggressively develop the province's workforce by identifying and developing strategies to ensure responsive training, education and supports to meet industry demands.

School Food Guidelines
A great deal of work has gone into the preparation of School Food Guidelines to be released in fiscal year 2006-07. The guidelines will be a step forward for the health and well-being of students. Lifestyle habits formed in childhood are influenced by the school environment and must be addressed during the population's school-aged years. The guidelines will outline a selection of food and beverages that should be served in school cafeterias, canteens and vending machines, and will ensure students are provided with healthy food choices. The department is committed to working with schools across the province in the next fiscal year to begin implementation.

Provincial Review of Student Assistant Allocation Procedures
Over the past number of years issues have arisen concerning the allocation of student assistants. In fiscal year 2006-07, the department will undertake a review which will concentrate on the procedures for allocating student assistants with a view to streamlining the process, making it more accountable and transparent for parents, and meeting the needs of students in a more timely manner.

Teacher Allocation Formula Review
Declining enrolment and a population shift from rural to urban areas necessitates a review of how this province allocates teachers throughout the education system. In fiscal year 2006-07, the department will commission a formal review of the Teacher Allocation Formula. The review will consider issues in both urban and rural areas, and in both small and large schools, such as class size, health and physical education initiatives, fine arts programming, improvements in career/ guidance counselling, graduation rates, and availability of appropriate programming.

Individualized Student Support Plan/ Pathways Administration Review
Government has heard from educators and administrators throughout the education system that the process associated with the Individualized Student Support Plan/ Pathways model is burdensome and needs to be improved for the benefit of both students and teachers. In fiscal year 2006-07, the department will commission a formal review which will consider the challenges of special education programming using the current model; workload and volume of paperwork; and, the role of parents, managers and teachers. The intent is to streamline the process to ensure it is efficient while continuing to provide a high level of service to students.

International Education
A decline in the number of students expected to attend provincial post-secondary institutions is anticipated due to provincial demographics. The most significant decline is expected to commence in school year 2010-11 and continue through school year 2014-15. Increasing numbers of international students will help offset this anticipated decline, and ensure this province maintains a comprehensive post-secondary educational system. The department needs to continue to promote Newfoundland and Labrador as a destination of study for foreign students if this province is to get a reasonable share of those students coming to Canada.

THE POWER ENGINEERING EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

A provincial Power Engineering Examination Committee has been established by the department consisting of three representatives from industry with power engineering expertise. This committee provides examination review and marking services to the department on a quarterly basis, and advice regarding applicants' eligibility for examination on an as-needed basis. In fiscal year 2005-06, the committee met six times for a total of 12 days. A total of 387 power engineering examination papers were written and 44 new power engineering certificates were issued.

THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION BOARD OF APPEALS

In accordance with section 14(1) of *The Teacher Training Act,* the Minister of Education may convene a board of appeals to hear two types of appeals where a teacher remains aggrieved by the decision of the registrar of teacher certification and records following a re-examination of an application; and, where a teacher or the Teacher Certification Committee remains aggrieved by a decision of the Teachers' Review Panel. The board of appeals appointed by the Minister of Education consists of: one member nominated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association; two members nominated by the Teacher Certification Committee; one member who is an employee of the Department of Education; and one member nominated by the above four members to be chairperson of the board of appeals. Members of a board of appeals are appointed on an ad-hoc basis. The finding or decision of the board is final and binding on the parties to an appeal. The minister was not requested to convene a board of appeals during fiscal year 2005-06.

PROVINCIAL APPRENTICESHIP AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

The Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board is established under authority of the *Apprenticeship and Certification Act* and shall consist of the following:

- A chairperson and, in equal representation,
    - two or more persons representative of employers,
    - two or more persons representative of employees, and
    - two or more persons not included in the groups of employers or employees;
- The director of institutional and industrial training or his or her designate; and
- Alternate members, who act in the absence of the above.

The mandate of the board is a very broad one, covering a number of apprenticeship training issues. The board sets policies to ensure that the *Apprenticeship and Certification Training Act* is implemented; accredits institutions to deliver apprenticeship programs; designates occupations for apprenticeship training and/or certification;

establishes provincial advisory committees for each designated occupation; establishes examination committees to conduct practical examinations for apprentices and trade qualifiers; and, approves Plans of Training. The board also provides advice to government on labour market matters related to training and certification.

The board was inactive during 2005-06 as its membership had expired.

COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION

In accordance with *Foundations for Success: White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education*, a reconfigured Council on Higher Education was established in legislation when the *Council on Higher Education Act* received royal assent on May 26, 2006.

The Act established a Council on Higher Education consisting of, by virtue of their offices:

- The Chairperson of Memorial University's Board of Regents;
- The Chairperson of College of the North Atlantic's Board of Governors;
- The Minister of Education;
- The Deputy Minister of Education;
- The President of College of the North Atlantic; and
- The President of Memorial University.

In addition to the above persons, the Minister of Education shall appoint two people, one who is a student enrolled at Memorial University and one who is a student enrolled at College of the North Atlantic, to be members of the council. The minister may also appoint not more than three additional persons as members of the council.

In anticipation of the *Council on Higher Education Act*, the previous council was inactive during fiscal year 2005-06. The council follows the academic year from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006.

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year Ended 31 March 2006.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RELATED REVENUE SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

		Estimates	
	Actual($)	Amended($)	Original ($)
Executive Services(13.1.1.01 & 13.1.2.01)			
Total	**1,316,501**	**1,347,200**	**1,186,400**
Corporate Services (13.2.1.01 - 13.2.2.01)			
General Administration (13.2.1.01 - 13.2.1.04)	8,011,860	8,129,500	3,995,300
Community Access Program (13.2.2.01)	809,020	832,300	800,000
Total	**8,820,880**	**8,961,800**	**4,795,300**
Primary, Elementary and Secondary Education (13.3.1.01 - 13.3.5.01)			
Financial Assistance (13.3.1.01 - 13.3.1.09)	554,353,369	564,215,400	572,868,500
Program Development (13.3.2.01 - 13.3.2.02)	4,064,604	1,620,700	1,508,600
Student Support Services (13.3.3.01 - 13.3.3.03)	3,049,323	3,080,800	2,895,900
Educational Programs (13.3.4.01 - 13.3.4.06)	12,568,319	11,713,900	14,572,800
Public Libraries & Information Services (13.3.5.01)	8,336,200	8,336,200	8,336,200
Total	**582,371,815**	**588,967,000**	**600,182,000**
Advanced Studies (13.4.1.01 - 13.4.5.02)			
Post-Secondary Education (13.4.1.01- 13.4.1.05)	2,585,665	2,712,000	2,548,000
Memorial University of Newfoundland (13.4.2.01 - 13.4.2.02)	182,404,740	182,406,000	173,464,000
College of the North Atlantic (13.4.3.01 - 13.4.3.02)	56,264,692	56,510,100	54,361,600
Student Financial Services(13.4.4.01 - 13.4.4.04)	27,802,633	29,285,900	33,295,200
Industrial Training (13.4.5.01 – 13.4.5.02)	2,268,094	462,900	820,400
Total	**271,325,824**	**271,376,900**	**264,489,200**
Total Department	**863,835,020**	**870,652,900**	**870,652,900**